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February 16, 2022

Roman Martinez IV Chairman United States Postal Service Board of Governors 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Washington, DC 20260

Dear Chairman Martinez,

Congratulations on your election as Chairman of the United States Postal Service (USPS) Board of Governors. I write to inquire as to your vision for the USPS and plans for addressing the implementation of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's "Delivering for America" 10-year plan, the USPS's role in the upcoming election cycle, and Postmaster General DeJoy's future with the USPS.

The USPS Board of Governors must play a stronger role in evaluating the impact of Postmaster General DeJoy's "Delivering for America" 10-year plan, which has reduced service standards and increased prices. As of October 1, 2021, almost 40% of first-class mail has shifted from a 3-day delivery timeframe to a 5-day timeframe in the name of saving money. In investigating this service standard slowdown, however, the Postal Regulatory Commission found that the USPS did not "provide sufficient evidence to justify exceptionally limited cost savings projections." As the USPS has reduced its service standards, it has simultaneously increased costs to Americans, including raising stamp prices and increasing prices for priority mail and other shipping services. In short, Americans are paying more for much slower mail service.

In addition to its daily importance to American families and businesses, the USPS also holds a unique and growing role in our electoral system through the increasing number of Americans voting by mail. In the 2020 election, more than 150,000 mail-in votes were not processed in time by the USPS.⁴ In November 2020, a judge ruled that Postmaster General DeJoy's policy reducing the number of deliveries was part of a politically motivated attempt to disenfranchise voters, and ordered that the policy be reversed.⁵ It is my hope that the USPS will avoid even the appearance of playing politics in the future.

As you assume your new role, I hope that you will consider the serious ethical questions surrounding Mr. DeJoy. Mr. DeJoy raised eyebrows when he first began in his current role because he did not initially divest from the 14 companies that do business with the USPS in which he had investments. In fact, Mr. DeJoy only divested after public pressure caused him to do so. Conflicts of interest continue to swirl around Mr. DeJoy and XPO Logistics, the company that Mr. DeJoy founded to which the USPS recently awarded a \$120 million contract. Many wonder why the USPS, with Mr. DeJoy at the helm, would enter such a contract knowing that Mr. DeJoy's family businesses continue to lease property to XPO Logistics to the tune of over \$20 million in rent payments expected over the next decade.

¹ <u>US Postal Service set to slow down certain first-class mail deliveries in October.</u> *Business Insider*. August 7, 2021.

² 20 attorneys general sue in ongoing battle over proposed mail slowdown. Axios. October 8, 2021.

³ U.S. Postal Service Announces New Competitive Prices and Two New Mail Products for 2022. USPS. November 10, 2021.

⁴ USPS failed to deliver over 150,000 mail-in ballots by Election Day, according to report. Business Insider. November 6, 2020

⁵ Following Court Order, USPS Instructs Employees to Restore Extra Mail Trips and Some Processing Machines. Government Executive. September 24, 2020.

⁶ New Documents Detail Conflicts of Interest DeJoy Faced as Postmaster General. NBC Boston. October 21, 2021.

⁷ DeJoy maintains financial ties to former company as USPS awards it new \$120 million contract. Washington Post. August 6, 2021.

In addition to these conflicts of interest, Mr. DeJoy is under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) for alleged campaign finance violations. Mr. DeJoy also had conflicts of interest arise with your predecessor, Mr. Ron Bloom. Specifically, Mr. DeJoy purchased up to \$305,000 from an investment firm where Mr. Bloom was a senior executive, raising serious questions about Mr. DeJoy trying to curry favor from his supervisor, namely Mr. Bloom. 9

Accordingly, I request that you provide responses to the following:

- 1. Will you commit to reviewing the implementation of the "Delivering for America" 10-year plan, including the negative impacts of rising costs and declining service standards?
- 2. Will you commit to considering the recommendations and assessments of the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) on the implementation of the "Delivering for America" plan?
- 3. What procedures are the USPS implementing in preparation for the 2022 midterm elections to protect mail-in-voting?
- 4. Given Postmaster General DeJoy's current FBI investigation, conflicts of interest, and substandard job performance, would you support Mr. DeJoy's removal?

Please provide answers to the above questions by February 28, 2022

I look forward to working with you and the other members of the USPS Board of Governors in providing quality service and reliability for the USPS customers – the American public.

Sincerely,

Raja Krishnamoorthi Member of Congress

⁸ FBI investigating Postmaster General Louis DeJoy in connection with past political fundraising. Washington Post. June 3, 2021.

⁹ DeJoy bought up to \$305,000 in bonds from USPS board chair's investment firm. Washington Post. August 13, 2021.